last five years, 9 roads aggregating for a length of about 540 km. have been declared as National Highways in Assam.

(b) Rs. 18.79 crores have been spent for the improvement of these National Highways.

(c) At present there is a ban on declaration of any new National Highway in the country including in the State of Assam. As and when the ban is lifted, the declaration of new National Highways will be considered keeping in view the criteria laid down for the purpose.

**Renaming of Yanam-Yedurulanka bridge in Andhra Pradesh**

2347. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to rename Yanam-Yedurulanka bridge in the east Godavari District as Balayogi Vaaradhi in the name of late Speaker Shri Balayogi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry of convey the approval of Government of India for naming the Yanam-Yedurulanka bridge on National Highway No. 214 in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh as "Balayogi Vaaradhi" in the memory of late Shri G.M.C. Balayogi.

(c) Ministry informed Government of Andhra Pradesh about the extant policy of the Ministry in this regard.

**Exemption limit for SSI sector**

2348. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry has agreed to restore the exemption limit on Rs. 1 lakh to small scale sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up the issue of giving sales tax relief on electronic toys with the Finance Ministry; and

(d) if so, Finance Ministry's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the Comprehensive Policy Package announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 30.08.2000, the General SSI Excise Exemption limit was enhanced from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs. The same limit is continuing 1st September, 2000.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs has informed that as per entry 54, List II in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, sales tax is a State subject. Therefore, any concession in this regard can be granted by State Government only.

**Quality and cost of SSI products**

2349. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Small Scale Industries are not able to compete with foreign products from quality and cost of production point of view;

(b) if so, the steps taken to help the Small Scale Industries to improve the quality and reduce the cost of production to compete with foreign products; and

(c) the names of the sectors where Government have come to rescue of the SSI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) While globalisation and the removal of quantitative restrictions have exposed the Indian Small Scale Industries (SSI) to greater competition, the Government has put in place several measures to help our industries become globally competitive. These include special focus on adoption of quality standards, technology upgradation, use of electronic